

In the Claims:

1. (currently amended). An isolated A receptor recognition factor implicated in the transcriptional stimulation of genes in target cells in response to the binding of a specific polypeptide ligand to its cellular receptor on said target cell, said receptor recognition factor having the following characteristics:
 - a) apparent direct interaction with the ligand-bound receptor and activation of one or more transcription factors capable of binding with a specific gene;
 - b) an activity demonstrably unaffected by the presence or concentration of second messengers;
 - c) direct interaction with tyrosine kinase domains; and
 - d) a perceived absence of interaction with G-proteins, said isolated receptor recognition factor consisting of a first polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, a second polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 or SEQ ID NO: 8, and a third polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6.
2. (original). The receptor recognition factor of Claim 1 which is proteinaceous in composition.
3. (original). The receptor recognition factor of Claim 1 which is cytoplasmic in origin.
4. (currently amended). An isolated ~~The~~ receptor recognition factor ~~of Claim 1~~ which is a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence ~~selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:10 or and SEQ ID NO:12.~~
5. (original). The receptor recognition factor of Claim 1 which is derived from mammalian cells.
6. (original). The receptor recognition factor of Claim 1 labeled with a detectable label.

7. (original). The receptor recognition factor of Claim 6 wherein the label is selected from enzymes, chemicals which fluoresce and radioactive elements.

8-35. (canceled).

36. (currently amended). An isolated A receptor recognition factor implicated in the transcriptional stimulation of genes in target cells in response to the binding of a specific polypeptide ligand to its cellular receptor on said target cell, said receptor recognition factor having the following properties:

- a) it is present in cytoplasm;
- b) it undergoes tyrosine phosphorylation upon treatment of cells with IFN α ;
- c) it activates transcription of an interferon stimulated gene;
- d) it stimulates either an ISRE-dependent or a gamma activated site (GAS)-dependent transcription in vivo;
- e) it interacts with IFN α cellular receptors, and
- f) it undergoes nuclear translocation upon stimulation of the IFN cellular receptors with IFN α , said isolated receptor recognition factor consisting of a first polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, a second polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 or SEQ ID NO: 8, and a third polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6.

37. (currently amended). An isolated A receptor recognition factor implicated in the transcriptional stimulation of genes in target cells in response to the binding of an interferon or interferon-related polypeptide ligand to its cellular receptor on said target cell, said receptor recognition factor having the following properties:

- a) it is present in vivo in mammalian cytoplasm before activation of cellular IFN receptors;
- b) it contains tyrosine sites that are phosphorylated in response to IFN stimulation of IFN receptors;

- c) it ~~consists of~~ has a molecular weight selected from the group consisting of 48kD, 84kD, 91kD and 113kD, or an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:10 and SEQ ID NO:12 comprising SEQ ID NO: 2, an amino acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO: 4 or SEQ ID NO: 8, and an amino acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO: 6, and
- d) when phosphorylated, it recognizes an ISRE in the cell nucleus.

38. (original). The receptor recognition factor of either of Claims 36 or 37 in phosphorylated form.

39-68. (canceled).

69. (new) A composition comprising a receptor recognition factor of claim 1 and an excipient.

70. (new) A composition comprising a receptor recognition factor of claim 4 and an excipient.

71. (new) A composition comprising a receptor recognition factor of claim 36 and an excipient.

72. (new) A composition comprising a receptor recognition factor of claim 37 and an excipient.